



*City of Columbia
A Proclamation*

WHEREAS, every day, 91 Americans are killed by gun violence and the lives of countless others are injured; and

WHEREAS, Americans are 25 times more likely to be murdered with guns than people in other developed countries; and

WHEREAS, protecting public safety in the communities they serve is mayors' highest responsibility; and

WHEREAS, support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes hand-in-hand with keeping guns away from dangerous people; and

WHEREAS, mayors and law enforcement officers know their communities best, are the most familiar with local criminal activity and how to address it, and are best positioned to understand how to keep their citizens safe; and

WHEREAS, June 2nd, 2016 would have been the 19th birthday of Hadiya Pendleton, a teenager who marched in President Obama's second inaugural parade and was tragically shot and killed just weeks later; and

WHEREAS, to help honor Hadiya – and the 91 Americans whose lives are cut short and the countless survivors who are injured by shootings every day – a national coalition of organizations has designated June 2nd, 2016, as the second annual National Gun Violence Awareness Day; and

WHEREAS, the idea was inspired by a group of Hadiya's friends, who asked their classmates to commemorate her life by wearing orange; they chose this color because hunters wear orange to announce themselves to other hunters when out in the woods and orange is a color that symbolizes the value of human life; and

WHEREAS, by wearing orange on June 2nd, Americans will raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives and lost human potential of Americans stolen by gun violence; and

WHEREAS, we renew our commitment to reduce gun violence and pledge to do all we can to keep firearms out of the wrong hands, and encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our children safe.

NOW, THEREFORE I, Stephen K. Benjamin, Mayor of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, along with my fellow members of Columbia City Council, do hereby proclaim Thursday, June 2, 2016 as

National Gun Violence Awareness Day

in the great City of Columbia and urge my fellow citizens to recognize and participate in its observance.

*Stephen K. Benjamin
Mayor*

*Sam Davis
District I, Council Member*

*Tameika Isaac Devine
At-Large, Council Member*

*Leona Plough
District IV, Council Member*

*Moe Baddourah
District III, Council Member*

*Howard E. Duvall, Jr.
At-Large, Council Member*

*Edward H. McDowell, Jr.
District II, Council Member*